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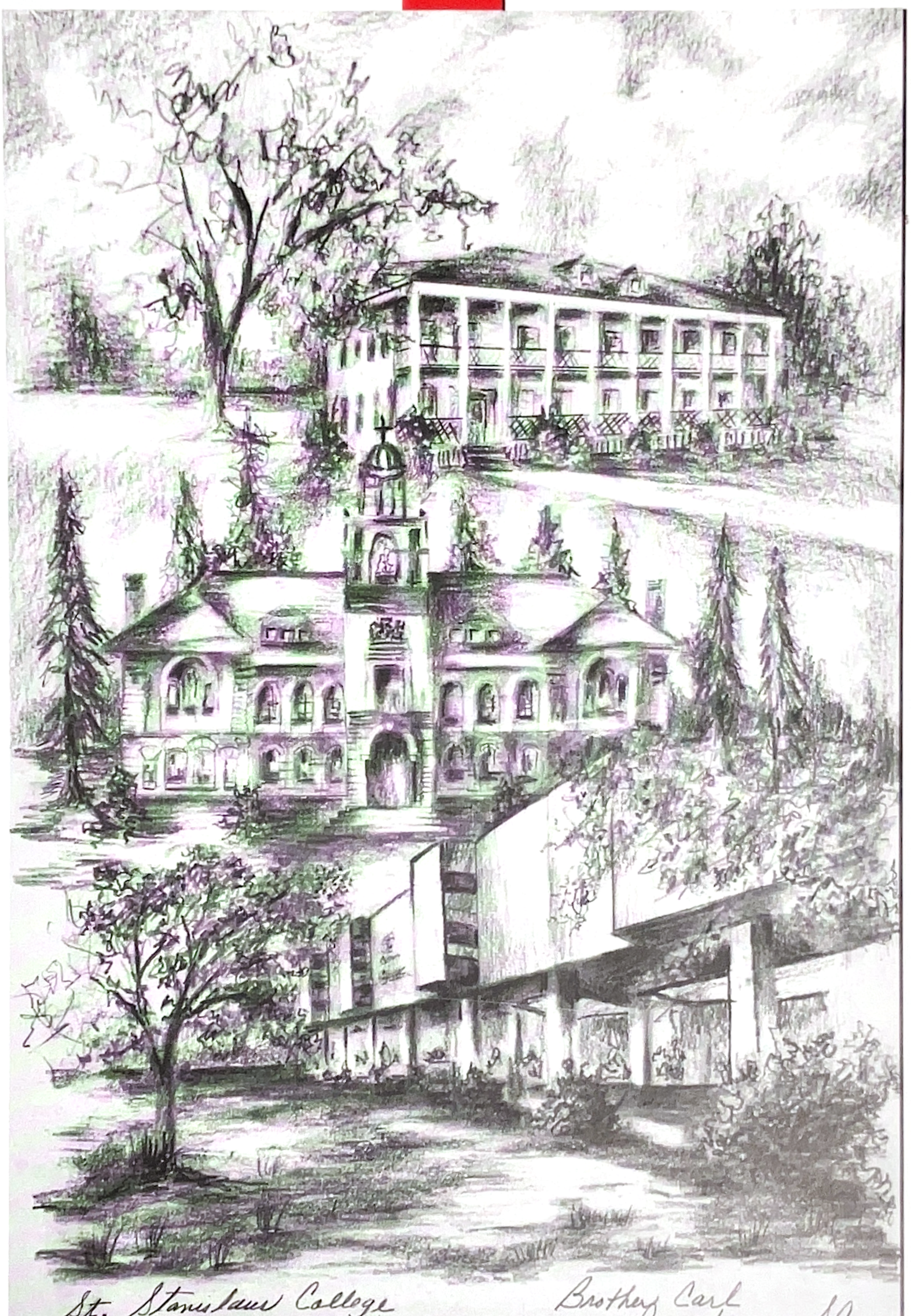

Sesquicentennial Moments

180 memorable events from the History of Saint Stanislaus College

by Brother Xavier Werneth, SC

These brief items, based on Brother Xavier Werneth's research for St. Stanislaus College: An Illustrated History, *are from a variety of sources. They are designed to be read over the school's public address system with the daily announcements during the sesquicentennial school year of 2003-2004. Thus, they are written with the students in mind in order to give them an interest in the rich history of the school they attend.*

1. St. Stanislaus Academy which the Brothers opened in January of 1856 was named after St. Stanislaus Kostka, the patron of youth. St. Stanislaus was also the patron of Father Stanislaus Buteux, pastor at Our Lady of the Gulf, who invited the Brothers of the Sacred Heart to Bay St. Louis in 1854. Born in Poland, St. Stanislaus had walked to Rome to join the Jesuits. He died as a novice there at age 18. He was canonized a saint in 1726, and his feast day is celebrated on November 13.

2. In 1855 Father Stanislaus Buteux helped the Brothers purchase their first property in Bay St. Louis. It was a lot 140 feet wide facing the Bay and stretching back along Bookter Street for about one and a half miles to what is now Highway 90. The cost was $4,000. What is now the stadium area was a pine forest. The back part behind Spanish Trail was a swamp where students sometimes went crawfishing and snake hunting.

3. The first Brothers in Bay St. Louis taught in a classroom behind Our Lady of the Gulf Church. They were paid $18 a month by the parish, and they took in a few boarders who lived with them in Father Stanislaus Buteux's house at Our Lady of the Gulf.

4. The first school building at St. Stanislaus was a two-and-a-half story wood frame building, 80 feet long by 30 feet wide. It was designed and built by Brother Leo Maligne and built by him at a cost of $3,800. The first floor had three classrooms and a reception room. The second floor had the dormitory and the infirmary. The Brothers lived in the attic.

5. In 1859 Brother Leo Maligne constructed another two-and-a-half-story building at St. Stanislaus to serve as a dining room and chapel for the students, a community room, and bedrooms for the 14 Brothers lived there at that time. This building, which was near the present Brothers' residence, was used for almost 100 years until it was demolished in 1958. After the present chapel building was constructed in 1930, the second floor of the 1859 building was used as a music hall.

6. The finance ledger book for 1858 shows that a Mrs. Ladner paid $2 a month for her son's tuition at St. Stanislaus during the first session of that year. She also paid $1.90 for his copy books. The school year went from January to December until 1870 when it was changed to the present system. (SSC Account Book, 1858)

7. In 1862 Br. Florimond Pauble became the president of St. Stanislaus for his first time. He was the only Brother to serve as president four different times for a total of 14 years. His most trying times were during the Civil War and then in December of 1868 when he took over the school after the sudden death of its president Br. Odon Celle.

8. Br. Odon Celle was only 29 years old when he became president of St. Stanislaus in 1866. Very popular, he attracted so many boarders to the school that he had to put up more buildings in 1867. He constructed a science and music building and made a study of those subjects mandatory. While on business in New Orleans, he died suddenly on December 1, 1868, in the prime of his life at age 32.

9. During the Civil War, the Yankees set up a naval blockade that included the Bay of St. Louis. The railroad had not yet been built, so travel between Bay St. Louis and Louisiana where most of the St. Stanislaus boarders lived was practically impossible. For the 1864 school session through the duration of the war, Brothers from Bay St. Louis went to New Orleans and set up a school there to teach their students there while a couple of Brothers remained in Bay St. Louis to teach local students at St. Stanislaus. (Century of Service, 124)

10. One student, John Moore, ran away from St. Stanislaus in 1861 to join the Confederate Army. He was only 12 years old, but nearly six feet tall. His mother set out from New Orleans in her carriage and eventually located his army camp which was not far from St. Stanislaus. When she found her son John, who was standing sentry duty at the camp, she promptly put him in her carriage and brought him back to St. Stanislaus where he later graduated and became a successful businessman in New Orleans. (Times Picayune, Oct. 17, 1976)

11. John Moore, the run-away student who joined the Confederate Army, was only nine years old when he started boarding at St. Stanislaus. Very homesick, he wrote his mother a letter in 1858 begging her to bring him home. Trying to convince his Mother to bring him home, he told her that the boys at St. Stanislaus all curse, swear, and smoke. "If you wish to make a gentleman of me," he wrote, "I must not stay in such company." (Times Picayune, Oct. 17, 1976)

12. Because Br. Hugh Hammel was very outspoken in his sympathy for the North during the Civil War, he was transferred from Mobile to Bardstown, Kentucky, since Kentucky was a neutral state. On the way there in 1861, he was captured by Confederate soldiers and forced into service. He served in the Alabama Light Artillery for three years until he was taken prisoner by Union soldiers in 1865. Upon his release, he rejoined the Brothers and was assigned to St. Stanislaus where he worked as a janitor for the next 32 years. (National Archives, military records)

13. In 1867 St. Stanislaus went bankrupt. Things were going fine until yellow fever forced the school to close and send all the boarders home. Three Brothers at St. Stanislaus died of yellow fever that year: Br. Orans, age 34; Br. Clotaire, age 23, and Br. Francis, age 34. In September of 1867, when the first Brother died in Bay St. Louis, the Brothers started their cemetery here.

14. Br. Francis, one of the Brothers who died of yellow fever in 1867, was very holy. He served at St. Stanislaus as linen keeper and infirmarian. In March of 1867, Br. Francis predicted the date of his death and wrote in his spiritual notebook, "I am going to die on September 22, 1867." While making beds for yellow fever victims on September 22, he prepared one for himself, saying it would be his deathbed. Indeed it was. He lived and died as a saint. (Lives of the Brothers)

15. The railroad came to Bay St. Louis in 1868. Like many other landowners, the SSC trustees gave property for the railroad tracks quite willingly. But railroad officials also demanded College property for a depot, and the college officials were not so willing. The issue went to court, and the 18th Judicial Court in Harrison County ordered St. Stanislaus through the concept of eminent domain to give the railroad a parcel of land 650 wide by 210 feet long for right of way and a depot. The railroad company paid the College only $38.85 for the three acres of valuable school property.

16. It was thanks to the railroad that St. Stanislaus and other schools were able to develop interscholastic sports in the 1920s. Schools did not have buses back then, and athletic teams traveled back and forth by railroad. The L&N Railroad often ran excursion trains from New Orleans to Bay St. Louis for special events such as the St. Stanislaus graduations and important football or baseball games.

17. In 1869 the Brothers opened the Free Day School for elementary age boys in Bay St. Louis. It was located behind the main campus on the corner of Bookter and Hancock streets near the huge oak tree close to the present cemetery. The Free School was sometimes called the Day School to distinguish it from St. Stanislaus boarding school where students paid tuition; but usually it was just called the Back School to distinguish it from the main school which was on Front Street, the former name of Beach Boulevard. The Back School operated for almost 100 years until 1966.

18. In 1870 St. Stanislaus Commercial College was incorporated by the Mississippi State Legislature and was granted the right to confer college degrees. It remained a college until 1923. The college had two tracks: commercial and superior. In addition, St. Stanislaus still took high school and elementary students from ages seven to sixteen.

19. In 1870 the enrollment at St. Stanislaus included 85 boarders and 50 day students. Tuition for boarders was $250 for the entire year, payable in advance each semester. Tuition for day students was $1 to $3 a month, depending on their grade level. Students could stay on campus during the summer for $10 a week. Summer camp did not start until 1928.

20. The financial ledgers in the SSC archives room on the first floor of the school building show that in the 1870s SSC students paid 25 cents for a haircut, 75 cents for a bathing suit, $1 a month for laundry service , and $2 for a pair of shoes. These old financial ledgers dating back to 1856 have survived the fire of 1903 as well as several hurricanes. Unfortunately many of the old photos of the school and students, including glass negatives and tintypes were destroyed in Hurricane Camille in 1969.

21. Br. Gabriel Granger was 29 years old when he became president of St. Stanislaus in 1875. He had been a very popular disciplinarian at the school as well as an excellent teacher with a knack for making learning fun. In October of 1877 he caught a bad cold while working outside and it developed into what doctors of his day called "galloping consumption," what we know today as tuberculosis. He died on December 2, 1877, at the age of 31. Nine years earlier, Br. Odon, who also had become president at age 29, had died on December 1 at age 32.

22. The daily schedule for boarders at SSC in 1880 was quite rigorous: rising at 5:30 a.m., study hall from 6:00 to 7:00 a.m., breakfast at 7:00, classes from 8:00 to 4:00, and retiring at 8:30 p.m. All students remained on campus for weekends and holidays, except Christmas when some went home. There was no running water, no plumbing, no electricity, and no telephones. Students had to haul water up to the top floors of the dormitory for personal use. In 1888 the College dug several artesian wells. The SSC campus was one of the first places in Bay St. Louis to get a telephone in 1899 and electric lights in 1900.

23. In 1881 Br. Stanislaus Keating began his first of three terms as president of St. Stanislaus. He served as president for 17 years, a record that still stands. He was considered a scholastic giant who not only put up new buildings, but who enhanced the curriculum by requiring the study of Latin and Greek as well as classical literature. Blindness forced his retirement in 1913.

24. In 1882 Br. Stephen O'Hanlon began a 26-year teaching career at the St. Stanislaus Free School, often called the Back School or the Sorbonne. Br. Stephen sported a long, snow-white beard which earned him the nicknames Uncle Sam and Rip Van Winkle. Many of his former students in Bay St. Louis referred to the school as "Rip's University."

25. Four Hemmersbach brothers from Cologne, Germany, directed SSC bands between 1890 and 1963. In 1890 Professor Peter Hemmersbach became the first full-time lay faculty member. In 1891 Professor John Hemmersbach joined the staff. He was the most renowned of the four brothers, earning a national reputation and ranking as one of the leading musicians in the country. Two or three Brothers of the Sacred Heart on the faculty as well as the director often played with the band. In 1908 Professor Carl Hemmersbach took over the band. In 1916 his brother Joseph became band director, beginning a 47-year relationship with St. Stanislaus. (Sea Coast Echo, May 16, 1903)

26. Not all students went home for Christmas in the 1890s. One student, Edward Lang, wrote his parents about the boarders' celebration of Christmas in a letter dated Dec. 23, 1891: "We have erected in the yard a large pine tree, on the limbs of which we will put old oil barrels; and around the truck we will pile all sorts of old trash so we will have a glorious time with fireworks and the large bonfire. Hope all are well and wishing all a Merry and Joyous Christmas, I remain your loving son, Edwin." (SSC archives)

27. In 1898 a Bike Club was started at SSC with about 30 members. The club grew in popularity and soon had 50 members, (about one-third of the school). Once when the club started on one of their biking tours they had a surprise. Some practical jokers had been out before them to sprinkle tacks where they would do the most good. As a result, many a would-be rider was a walker—pushing home a wheel. (Sea Coast Echo, Feb. 1898; also Rock-A-Chaw, Feb. 1935.)

28. Early one Sunday morning in June of 1898, at 1:00 a.m., about 40 SSC students sneaked in the darkness to the end of the pier and slipped aboard a large schooner anchored there in the Bay. They wanted to get home for the summer vacation. They sailed all day Monday and Tuesday trying to get to New Orleans by avoiding the blockade due to the yellow fever quarantine. The sheriff and his posse met them at Shell Beach and sent them back to Bay St. Louis. (Sea Coast Echo, June 18, 1898)

29. In June of 1898 about 18 SSC students again tried to run the blockade put into place by the Louisiana state health officials. This time they had a Brother with them. Aboard the schooner Mizpah they bravely fought off the Louisiana mosquitoes during the night as they tried to sail from Bay St. Louis to New Orleans, but they were again stopped, this time at the Rigolets, and turned back at gun point by quarantine officials. (Sea Coast Echo, June 25, 1898)

30. On June 22, 1898, Brother Isidore, president of SSC, chartered cars on the L&N Railroad and took resident students still on campus eastward to Mobile and then north to Tennessee. From Memphis and Nashville, the Brothers were able to get the students to their homes in Louisiana. Thus, they had finally managed to get around the blockage and the quarantine officials. Earlier that school year, Br. Emilien Compte, age 24, had died of yellow fever at SSC.

31. Br. Isidore, president of SSC, ended the school year two weeks early in 1898 because of a yellow fever threat. Calixto Piedro, a student from Havana, left for Mobile on June 23 without his diploma which was dated June 30. His Masters of Accounting diploma is still in the school's archives. Not only that, his younger brother Charles Piedro died of yellow fever two years later at SSC; and somehow, Calixto's name ended up on the tombstone in the Brothers' cemetery. Calixto did not catch yellow fever, but he was a victim in that he lost his diploma and his brother to the dreaded disease, and ended up with his name on a tombstone by mistake.

32. In May of 1898 the main topic of conversation on campus was the War in Cuba. Train loads of young soldiers recruited from New Orleans stopped at Bay St. Louis on their way to Mobile and from there to Cuba. Many of the soldiers were former students or relatives of students at SSC at the time. (Sea Coast Echo, June 11, 1898)

33. In 1898 more than 70 SSC students formed two companies of military cadets on campus. They were fully equipped with regulation uniforms designating their ranks, as well as the proper arms such as swords and rifles. Two afternoons a week were devoted to drilling tactics on campus. On two days other days during the week, they had a full dress parade through the streets of downtown Bay St. Louis.

34. Br. Germain Monnier, a teacher at Stanislaus, was a passenger on the S. S. La Bourgogne when it collided with another steamer in the fog off the banks of Newfoundland on July 5, 1898. One of the few survivors, he later enthralled students with hair-raising stories of his awful experiences witnessed and suffered because of the shipwreck. An excellent swimmer, he had clung to a life preserver for four hours in the icy waters of the Arctic currents before being rescued. (Annuaire, 36:158)

35. In the 1890s ten passenger trains passed through Bay St. Louis daily, five in each direction. The trip from New Orleans to Bay St. Louis took two hours. SSC students from Biloxi and Gulfport areas were able to commute to school by train.

36. In the late 1800s St. Stanislaus was served by several non-teaching Brothers who worked as cooks, carpenters, tailors, infirmarians, door keepers, farmers, gardeners, janitors, laundry men, and manual laborers. These men were sometimes called "working Brothers" to distinguish them from the faculty who were called "teaching Brothers."

37. Br. Zozime Robert was only four feet tall with a muscular body and large head. He sewed bathing suits which he rented to students for fifty cents a season. In charge of the student infirmary, he "cured" students quickly with doses of castor oil and meals that consisted of a cup of milk or tea and one piece of dry bread. Students were eager to leave the infirmary as soon as possible. Br. Zozime worked at St. Stanislaus for 35 years from 1871-1906.

38. Br. Remigius Gerhard worked on the farm at St. Stanislaus for 23 years from 1882 to 1905. This Prussian-American approached his work patiently with studied attention. Shortness of breath due to asthma taught Br. Remy to avoid any unnecessary movement. So he trained his mule named Democrat to open and shut the gates so that he would not have to get down from his wagon.

39. St. Stanislaus students prepared an exquisite exhibit for the Paris Exposition of 1889. They submitted portfolios of their daily class work and samples of their penmanship, bookkeeping, mathematical drawings, descriptions of their science experiments, and so on. For their efforts, they won the Silver Medal, the highest award offered to any school anywhere.

40. In 1893 St. Stanislaus took part in the Columbian Exposition in Chicago. There SSC students won many awards. Of special note were eight portfolios of various pen, linear, and architectural drawings. These pen and ink sketches done by St. Stanislaus students are now on file in the archives of the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

41. In 1894 some city officials in Bay St. Louis attempted to tax St. Stanislaus for its property and make the assessment retroactive. This resulted in many court battles until the issue was resolved in 1897 when the Hancock County Chancery Court ruled that St. Stanislaus Commercial College was tax exempt as an educational institution. The vast majority of the citizens of Bay St. Louis supported the College, especially in view of the fact that the Free Day School enrolled more than 100 boys each session.

42. On April 21, 1899, there was a storm at Bay St. Louis with winds up to 60 miles per hour. Trees were uprooted and fences blown down. The Sea Coast Echo reported that one of the College buildings was partly demolished. It was the biggest storm in Bay St. Louis since the hurricane of October 1893. (Sea Coast Echo, April 22, 1899)

43. The Sea Coast Echo of June 24, 1899, reported that Mr. and Mrs. Pedro de Prida gave a fishing party in honor of the Spanish-speaking pupils at St. Stanislaus College. Students were from Mexico, Cuba, Spain, and New Orleans.

44. The Sea Coast Echo of July 1, 1899, reported that about 1,000 visitors came to Bay St. Louis for the 44th graduation of St. Stanislaus, filling all the hotels in town. It was a typical two-day affair. As part of the program, the seniors performed two plays, one of them in French. The Band, Glee Club, and Orchestra gave concerts as well. All took place in SSC's large Commencement Hall that burned down in 1903.

45. Electric lights came to Bay St. Louis in March of 1900. The Sea Coast Echo reported that "Some 300 incandescent lights are being put in at St. Stanislaus College, the great number of these being placed in their Exhibition Hall. The College is always up to date." (Sea Coast Echo, March 17, 1900)

46. Before 1900, the year when electric lights came to Bay St. Louis, SSC students studied at night by means of kerosene lamps suspended from the high ceilings in the study hall. For 40 years beginning in 1858, Br. Adalbert Chabrier, cook and dishwasher, tended to the lamps. St. Stanislaus was always considered to have the most modern facilities anywhere, and it was one of the first buildings to get running water, electricity, and telephone service when these became available.

47. Bay St. Louis had a reputation as a most picturesque and beautiful spot in the South in the early 1900s. Visitors compared the Bay to that of Naples. An article published in the Wisconsin News quoted tourists from that state who had returned from a trip to Bay St. Louis as saying, "Bay St. Louis is a most charming resort and our entire party was remembered with refreshments, carriage rides, and music by the college men." (Sea Coast Echo, March 24, 1900)

48. In the early 1900s, boarders did not go home for holidays as they do now. Each holiday had its own traditions. Easter Monday was celebrated as a day of outdoor games, with baseball being the highlight. At night there was a torch parade through town, followed by a ball at the College Hall. Music was furnished by the SSC brass band and orchestra. (Sea Coast Echo, April 21, 1900)

49. A headline in the May 5, 1900, Sea Coast Echo, read: "St. Stanislaus Cadets Celebrate the Second Dewey Day on a Grand Scale; The Cadets Parade the Streets of the City in Holiday Attire and Serenade their Friends—Military Hop at Night." Dewey Day was celebrated on May 1, the day commemorating the return of Admiral Dewey to New York after his victory at Manila Bay. That afternoon the SSC band led the marching Cadets off campus down Front Street to Main Street to above St. Charles Street. They performed an exhibition drill for the public. The newspaper described the SSC cadets as "gallant and handsome."

50. The Biloxi Herald of May 17, 1900 reported: "Yesterday on the mail train No. 6 arrived about fifty students of Saint Stanislaus College of Bay St. Louis. These students belong to the Sodality which has as its object mutual aiding of its members to better themselves. Every year this sodality has an outing and this year on account of many of its members being Biloxi boys, it was found proper to spend the day in this city." Besides beach activities, students played Biloxi boys in baseball before a crowd of 300 with many lady friends present. SSC won.

51. The June 9, 1900, Sea Coast Echo reported that Thursday morning the St. Stanislaus Cadets, led by the St. Stanislaus Band, met about 154 students from St. Aloysius New Orleans at the train depot. After parading through town, they played baseball. SSC beat the St. Aloysius Knickerbockers 16-10. After lunch and a swim, St. Aloysius Greens beat the SSC Potatoes-Hard-to-Peel in a second game of baseball before the New Orleans students began their two-hour train ride home.

52. In the 1890s gymnastics and football were popular at SSC, but baseball was the favorite sport. Most students belonged to an intramural team. Students liked to choose catchy names for their teams such as the Quicksteps, the Invincibles, and the Hard-Hitters. By 1901 SSC had seven baseball teams: the Elks, Orioles, Pelicans, Eagles, Buffaloes, Cardinals, and Crescents. By 1903 when interscholastic baseball competition began, SSC was a powerhouse.

53. The first basketball game at SSC took place in February of 1903. It was sponsored by the S. S. A. A. (St. Stanislaus Athletic Association) and was played in the school's "new" gym. That was the 1908 gym located on the site of the present chapel/library building. The current "old" gym on Union Street was built in 1923. The first basketball game in 1903 was under the direction of the school's first physical education instructor, Professor Sadler.

54. In the old days, students remained in Bay St. Louis for Mardi Gras. The Sea Coast Echo of February 1, 1903, reported that SSC students were busy "making elaborate preparations for the reception of Rex, next Tuesday. His Majesty will arrive from Cat Island at the College wharf about 2 pm on the royal yacht Mizpah, after which he will be escorted to the banquet hall by his loyal subjects. A grand parade will take place in the evening which will be followed by the SSC annual ball. Students decorated 14 wagons for the parade led by the SSC band and cadets."

55. Br. Macarius created a great deal of enthusiasm among SSC students in 1900 by the introduction of Palmer's Muscular System. No, it was not body building. Rather it was a system of penmanship. The large class under his direction drilled for one hour daily, and students achieved unexpected and gratifying results. (Sea Coast Echo, Feb 21, 1903)

56. Thanksgiving Day in 1901 was fittingly celebrated by the resident students, all of whom remained on campus. The Sea Coast Echo reported that the meal with all the trimmings must have been greatly enjoyed because there were several students who over-ate and needed castor oil the next day. Brother Matthew, infirmarian, was most kind to all who needed his services. The Seniors played the Juniors in baseball for a prize of two roasted turkeys. (Rock-A-Chaw, March 23, 1935)

57. Also on Thanksgiving Day, 1901, Br. Jude's Bike Club sponsored another biking tour; but this time they checked the roadway ahead of time for tacks. The Bike Club remained popular, and in January of 1902, according to the Sea Coast Echo, it introduced a new sport on campus—Bicycle Polo. (Rock-A-Chaw March 23, 1935)

58. SSC played its first baseball game against an outside club on Thursday, April 23, 1903, when they "crossed bats with the Bay's picked nine," according to the Sea Coast Echo whose headlines read: "SSC Baseballists Defeat the Bay Boys—Score 16-2." In a rematch the next week, SSC won again, 24-4.

59. A favorite past-time among boarders in 1903 was making their own nets to catch crabs, catfish, mullet, and trout off the pier. One observer wrote in the Sea Coast Echo "It is interesting to watch the boys netting during recreations. In some shady-nook at the foot of a giant oak, the most industrious will form a group where busy and deft fingers, earnestness in work, and the fine specimens produced remind you of an industrial school." (Sea Coast Echo, May 2, 1903)

60. May 8, 1903, was the First Friday of the month; and SSC students were given a holiday in honor of the Sacred Heart. All students attended Mass at OLG. After breakfast seniors made their way to Spring Park located near the back of the campus with their nets and lines in search of crawfish. In less than an hour they had caught enough to eat. They made small fires and cooked lunch outside. At 2 pm there was a baseball game on the College Green and a program after supper in the Exhibition Hall. (Sea Coast Echo, May 9, 1903)

61. A baseball game between Biloxi and SSC took place as scheduled May 21, 1903. Invitations had been sent out by the players to their friends and admirers in the Bay. All had been requested to wear the College colors, pink and green, and the grandstand was one mass of elegant dresses, beautiful flowers and flaunting ribbons. (Sea Coast Echo, May 30, 1903)

62. On Sunday night at 9:30, June 1, St. Stanislaus burned to the ground after 1903 graduation ceremonies. The fire started in the clothes room, probably caused by a cigarette. The alarm sounded quickly, and all 150 boarders and Brothers escaped safely, and succeeded in saving the dining hall, music hall, and kitchen. All the classrooms and dorms were destroyed. Gracious townspeople and hotels took students in for the night. After buying some new clothes in town, the students left for home Monday, vowing to return the next semester even if they had classes outside. (Sea Coast Echo, June 7, 1903)

63. After St. Stanislaus College burned to the ground in June 1903, the Biloxi Commercial Club made a bid to school officials to move St. Stanislaus to Biloxi and offered the school $15,000 to do so. SSC told the Biloxians that they would have to contribute $20,000 to help rebuild and to provide the land as well—about $30,000 in all. That they could not do, and St. Stanislaus remained in Bay St. Louis. (Sea Coast Echo, July 11, 1903)

64. Bricks for the 1903 school building came from Slidell. A barge towed by a tug carried the freight and was landed at the SSC school pier. A specially built track from the pier to the college grounds was constructed to help in unloading the bricks. (Sea Coast Echo, Sept 12, 1903)

65. Br. Felix Hoffman, born and reared in Bay St. Louis, returned to his alma mater as president in July 1903. He had the monumental task of rebuilding as quickly as possible the school that had burned down. Even though he was pressed for time, he rejected two series of sealed bids because he felt that the prices were exorbitant and contractors were taking advantage of the emergency. Br. Felix then hired Charles Sanger of the Bay to construct three brick buildings designed by Owen and Diboll Architects. The first brick was laid in September, and the three main buildings were completed only six months later in March.

66. When local workers went on strike two weeks after the school construction began in 1903, Charles Sanger, superintendent, brought in workers from Birmingham by train. They could not afford the tourist prices for lodging at the Bay, so he adapted the bathhouses on the pier for them to live in. To motivate workers to meet all deadlines, Br. Felix treated them to kegs of beer on the weekends. (Diary of a Prefect, 1903)

67. While the new school and dormitories were being constructed in 1903, boarders stayed at five villas on Front Street, rented from Mrs. A. U. Gragnon of New Orleans. The cottages were named Laura's Villa, Nellie's Villa, Avondale, Bellevue, and Irish Villa. Each morning and evening, prefects escorted 113 boarders back and forth to school. A large temporary wooden building 20 feet wide and 160 feet long served as classrooms and study halls while the brick buildings were under construction. (Century of Service, 137)

68. Conditions were rough in 1903 while the new school was being built, but students did not complain. Until October 20, they slept on beds without springs. The summer cottages did not have indoor plumbing capable of allowing students to bathe there. A temporary bath house on campus was completed on October 23. Water from a cistern near the kitchen was insufficient to supply enough water for all of the tubs at once. Since only four tubs could be filled at a time, students often had to miss study periods when it came their turn to bathe. (Diary of a Prefect, 1903)

69. Br. Florimond Frank, prefect in 1903, wrote in his diary for Dec. 9, the day after the holiday of the Immaculate Conception: "Yesterday I took the boys over to the Drug Store where they made purchases of cigars, cigarettes, tobacco, paper, matches, candy, oranges, peanuts, and a thousand other little things that boys enjoy on a long walk. We walked to the end of Main Street, then to Bayou Choctaw and the Jourdan River." (Diary of a Prefect, 1903)

70. In 1903 before the era of interscholastic sports, two senior football teams were organized at SSC: the red and black Tigers and the purple and gold Lions. For several years previously, the teams had been practicing and learning the game. The first SSC football game was played in November of 1903. It started at 3 o'clock since there were no lighted fields. The ladies from St. Joseph Academy were on hand to cheer on their favorite athletes. The Tigers won 6-5. (Sea Coast Echo, Nov 14, 1903)

71. An article in the April 16, 1904, Sea Coast Echo deplored the fact that the street in front of St. Stanislaus had become a dangerous raceway: "Front Street, always considered a public road for the use and enjoyment of the general public, is being converted into a veritable race track by a number of our residents," the editor noted. He reminded his readers that "It is unlawful to drive through the corporate limits of Bay St. Louis at a rate faster than six miles an hour."

72. There were ten members of the Golden Jubilee graduation class of SSC in 1904. Their two-day graduation ceremonies in June included a solemn high Mass celebrated by Bishop Thomas Heslin at Our Lady of the Gulf, a play that the graduates performed entitled "The Dodge of Venice," the dedication of the new brick school buildings by the bishop, and the awarding of diplomas and medals at St. Joseph Academy Hall. SSC held its graduation ceremonies at St. Joseph next door until 1908 when it constructed a pavilion for use as an assembly hall. The pavilion, later converted to a gym, was on the site of the present library. (Sea Coast Echo, June 11, 1904)

73. The following appeared in the June 4, 1904, Beacon, Pass Christian's weekly newspaper: "The baseball team of St. Stanislaus College at Bay St. Louis came over to give our club a game the first of the week, but somehow or other the local team appeared to have forgotten all it ever knew of ball playing, and the college boys made them look like a plugged nickel."

74. Three handsome life-size statues, imported from Paris, France, arrived at St. Stanislaus in September, 1904, to enhance the beauty of its already lovely chapel. The statue of the Sacred Heart was presented by E. H. Hoffman, city clerk. The statue of the Blessed Virgin was donated by Mr. Joseph Cazeneuve of Hancock Bank; and the statue of St. Stanislaus was a gift of Messrs. Diboll and Owen, architects of the new school buildings. (Sea Coast Echo, Sept 24, 1904)

75. In 1904 SSC offered a course in telegraphy, so students could learn how to send and receive telegrams. Superintendent Charles Marshall of the L&N Railroad had special telegraph wires erected from the college to the depot. Br. Francis Tyler taught the special course which was opened to students all along the coast. They could arrive by train at a monthly cost ranging from $2 to $5, depending on whether they had traveled less than five miles or up 50 miles from Bay St. Louis. (Sea Coast Echo, Sept 24, 1904)

76. The Sea Coast Echo of November 26, 1904, reported that "in response to a challenge issued in last week's issue of the Sea Coast Echo by the junior pupils of the Bay St. Louis High School, the small boys from the College "day school" crossed bats with the challengers Thanksgiving morning and defeated them by a score of 10-0. The game was played on the Bowers' lot and attracted many spectators."

77. The June 23, 1906, issue of the Sea Coast Echo reported the following: "While out rowing near the railroad drawbridge Thursday afternoon about 3 o'clock, Louis Villa, of Vera Cruz, Mexico, age 18 years, was drowned. Villa was in company with three companions, Campa, Sartuza, and Rice, also from Mexico, when one of the oars fell in the water. Although not knowing how to swim, Villa undressed and jumped overboard, and coming up above the surface of the water but once, sank again and was seen no more." Louis had come to Bay St. Louis only six weeks earlier to study English during the summer at St. Stanislaus. He is buried in the Brothers' Cemetery.

78. In 1907 St. Stanislaus's sister school, St. Joseph Academy, burned to the ground along with several other buildings in Bay St. Louis. A letter from Sister Stephanie Rose written on November 24, 1907, to her Mother General, praised the Brothers, noting that "they have been truly admirable in our misfortune. Without them and their students, we would have lost everything. They had the time to save our trunks, bedding, desks, piano and even the big stove in the kitchens and the provisions. For two days they fed us as well as our children." She went on to say how the students and Brothers helped them move into their new homes and continued to minister to them, being true brothers to them. (Archives of the Sisters of St. Joseph, 1200 Mirabeau, New Orleans)

79. In 1908 the SSC Alumni Association was formed. The objectives of the association were listed in its first constitution of 1908 and have not changed over the years:
First, to preserve and increase the filial affection which former students bear to their alma mater and to encourage them to further its interests as far as lies in their power.
Second, to renew and perpetuate friendships of younger days.
Third, to provide its members with the advice and help of sincere and trust-worthy friends.

80. Felix A. Blanchard Sr. graduated from SSC in 1915, and he was recognized as an outstanding athlete in basketball and baseball. He later starred in football at Tulane. He so loved St. Stanislaus that in 1938 he sent his son here from Bishopville, South Carolina. Felix Jr., known as "Doc" Blanchard, graduated from SSC in 1942. He became one of the most outstanding athletes SSC ever produced, winning the Heisman trophy in 1945. That trophy and several others won by him are on display in the school Resource Center.

81. On the night of September 29, 1915, a severe hurricane struck Bay St. Louis. All 125 boarders at SSC remained on campus but evacuated the main buildings facing the Bay. The younger students, nestled three or four to a bed, found shelter in the infirmary building. The older students, provided with a pillow and blanket, slept on the floor of the pavilion which served as a gym. By 6:00 a.m. they were up shooting basketballs. SSC lost its 1,000-foot pier, but its seawall saved the main buildings.

82. Students at SSC in 1915 had a great Halloween party with games such as apple ducking, a donkey party, an apple-eating contest, a four-legged race and so on. The most enjoyable contest of the evening was the Peanut Rolling. It was highly amusing to watch each sturdy athlete armed with a toothpick trying to coax a peanut to roll straight to the finish line. One such athlete was Milton Phillips, who graduated in 1921, after becoming a super star with the javelin. (Sea Coast Echo, Nov 6, 1915)

83. The SSC graduating class of 1915 was the first to wear caps and gowns. A composite photo of the six graduating members of the class in their caps and gowns is hanging in the school hallway downstairs where there are composite photos of all the graduating classes going back to 1896. St. Stanislaus was still a college at that time, and some of the graduates sported moustaches and beards.

84. On December 20, 1915, SSC sponsored at 5-mile run in Bay St. Louis and hosted teams such as Tulane University, LSU, Mississippi State, Ole Miss, University of Alabama, Millsaps, Spring Hill College, Gulf Coast Military Academy, Jesuit, Holy Cross, and St. Paul's in Covington. The race started on the Kiln Road and ended in front of SSC. The event put SSC on the athletic map of the South. (Sea Coast Echo, Dec 4, 1915)

85. Coach Forster Commagere of SSC sponsored the first track meet ever in Bay St. Louis on February 6, 1916. Three to four hundred spectators showed up to watch the meet at the Stanislaus College Park, the name of SSC's stadium at that time. One star of the event was SSC athlete Nat Tycer. During the 1915-16 school year, St. Stanislaus changed its school colors from the pink and green used by the baseball teams to red and black as more appropriate for track and basketball uniforms. (Sea Coast Echo, Feb 12, 1916)

86. The 1915-1916 SSC basketball team, led by center Nat Tycer and coached by Forster Commagere, defeated Holy Cross College to win the Preparatory School Championship of the South. The team was honored at a magnificent banquet prepared by Br. Cyran Boulard, master chef. Besides the entrees that included baked ham, roasted chicken, and beef fillet, the menu included foamy beer, black coffee, rum omelets, and cigars! Keep in mind that in 1916 SSC was still a college. (Sea Coast Echo, March 16, 1916)

87. In April 1916 SSC sent seven members of its track and field team to Meridian to participate against the best athletes from Mississippi and Alabama. It was the first time that SSC track members went to an away meet. According to the Sea Coast Echo, they "virtually wiped up the earth with their opponents." That same season, the Rockachaws participated in other meets in Gulfport, Hattiesburg, and Meridian. According to the Sea Coast Echo the reception given to the St. Stanislaus athletes in all of these places would have done justice to kings. It was a case of one luncheon, dinner, banquet, serenade, and automobile ride after another. (Sea Coast Echo, April 15, 1916)

88. Coach Commagere started interscholastic football at St. Stanislaus in 1916. In the school's first game played on Sunday, October 22, 1916, his husky football team, alias the Rockachaws, overwhelmed the Ramblers of New Orleans by a score of 82-0. The name Rock-A-Chaw was given to the St. Stanislaus 1916 football team by Br. Macarius who started a booster club that year to cheer the team on. (Sea Coast Echo, Oct 28, 1916)

89. The following is a stanza from Br. Macarius Pierce's ode "To the Rockachaws" which was first published in the Sea Coast Echo in 1916:

> In this favored spot stands a college grand,
> Famed for its athletes throughout the land.
> Its football squad is a husky bunch,
> With brawn and brain—I have a hunch;
> And casting about for a name to present
> The qualities, which to their enemies meant
> Confusion, disaster and horrid death's jaws,
> They hit on the name of the Rockachaws.

(Printed in Sea Coast Echo, Dec. 23, 1916; reprinted, Dec. 20, 1924)

90. The graduating class of 1917 at St. Stanislaus produced three student athletes of national fame. Edward Curtis, star in the one-mile run, represented the US at the Olympics in Belgium. Sidney Wolfe played quarterback for LSU and later became president of the Research Corporation of New York. As a senior at SSC, Nathan Tycer won the national championship for the 516 pound throw in St. Louis, Missouri. Tycer went on to become a prominent district judge in Louisiana.

91. The 1917 SSC football team holds the school record for the highest scoring game. The Rockachaws trampled over the Cardinals of Rugby Academy of New Orleans, 110-0. It was the biggest rout in Louisiana prep history until 1928 when Commercial High defeated first-year Westwego, 139-0. Rugby Academy had had a football program since 1895 whereas that of St. Stanislaus was only in its second year in 1917. (Ron Brocato, The Golden Game, 2002, p 48, 216.)

92. SSC once had a great football rivalry going with Jesuit of New Orleans. After SSC beat Jesuit 39-0 in Bay St. Louis in 1917, some Jesuit players complained about Stanislaus's bad field which was full of rockachaws. The most controversial game in SSC football history was its 7-0 defeat of Jesuit in 1919. With no score in the game, Jesuit attempted a field goal from the SSC 15-yard line by means of a drop kick. A SSC player caught the ball on the fly three yards from the goal and took off running. A referee thinking the ball crossed the goal blew his whistle which was ignored by many players. The runner, who was in the clear on the 20 yard line, stopped only after a second whistle. The embarrassed referee, realizing his error, compounded it by awarding SSC a touchdown rather than placing the ball on the three-yard line. His decision stood and after kicking the extra point, SSC won 7-0. (Ron Brocato, The Golden Game, 2002, p 41, 46)

93. The 1919 SSC football team played only six games and went undefeated, outscoring their opponents 254 points to 28 points. Their easiest game was a 85-0 rout of Verrina of New Orleans. That same season, Jesuit of New Orleans beat Verrina 52-0. The next year Jesuit led Verrina 90-0 with one minute left in the third quarter when the Verrina quarterback left the game with injuries. Br. James, Verrina's coach, then forfeited the game so that no more of his outclassed players would get hurt. The Prep League later ruled the official score of the forfeited game to be 1-0 in favor of Jesuit, wiping out 89 points! (Ron Brocato, The Golden Game, 2002, p 253)

94. On Thanksgiving Day, 1922, St. Stanislaus Day School hosted the first official Flea-Fly Classic. Mrs. R. L. Genin helped Br. James Fitzpatrick organize the contest between two teams of day scholars from the elementary grades. Admission was 10 cents per person, and the gate netted $18.83 to benefit the athletic fund. The game was so much of a hit with spectators that it became an annual event until 1964, tracing its history back for 48 years to 1916 when Br. Peter's junior yard league first charged admission to raise money for a Christmas tree party for the poor. (Sea Coast Echo, December 2, 1922)

95. The July 28, 1923, issue of the Sea Coast Echo reported that St. Stanislaus installed a new high-powered General Electric radio with a range of 1,500 miles. The installation was engineered by Brother Robert Ryder, physics teacher. The radio, the most powerful on the Gulf Coast, was most beneficial to the people of Bay St. Louis, providing them with entertainment. (Sea Coast Echo, July 26, 1923)

96. The large bronze statue of the Sacred Heart that presently stands in front of the school facing the Bay was put into place in honor of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart in Lyons, France. The statue was dedicated on August 11, 1922, by Bishop Gunn during Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament held on the front lawn of the campus. It has been said that this statue protects SSC students from storms since during two hurricanes it has been turned on its base, but never toppled.

97. The September 22, 1923, issue of the Sea Coast Echo reported on a new gym being built at SSC: "The new gymnasium which was begun about August 27th, is progressing rapidly. This building will cost approximately $40,000. It will be two stories in height. The ground floor will consist of a pool room, shower rooms, dressing rooms, visitors' rooms, and two classrooms. The upper story will contain the basketball court. The building is expected to be completely by the end of December 1923." This building on Union Street is now the oldest one on campus and is often called the "old gym."

98. When SSC played Gulf Coast Military Academy in football in 1923, the year that SSC dropped its college status, the Rockachaws chartered a L&N train to go to the Academy which was five miles past Gulfport. More than 300 students and fans boarded the special train which consisted of four coaches and the engine. The train left Bay St. Louis at 1:15, arriving in time for the 3:30 game. (Sea Coast Echo, Nov 3, 1923)

99. In 1924 ninety-five percent of the 300 students at St. Stanislaus participated in athletics. Interest in sports was so high that school officials had found it necessary to put the following reminder in the student handbook: "Undue attention to athletics at the expense of studies is not permitted; while on the other hand, students are advised, expected, even strongly recommended to take part in healthy outdoor sport."

100. On the night of February 27, 1924, the Tamburica Orchestra from Croatia in the Balkans performed at St. Stanislaus. The musicians appeared in bright and colorful native costumes to play and sing their extraordinary Slavic music which thrilled the audience. The program was part of a Lyceum Course co-sponsored by the SSC Athletic and Music Departments. The course was open to the public as well as being part of the SSC curriculum. During the 1923-24 school year, five performances were given by various national and international artists providing high quality cultural entertainment and education for people in the Bay St. Louis area. (Sea Coast Echo, Feb. 23, 1924)

101. On March 24, 1924, Br. Peter, Coach Commagere, and eight basketball players who had won the Southern Catholic Basketball Championship headed for the national playoffs in Chicago. More than 2,000 people saw them off at the L & N depot in Bay St. Louis. According to the Sea Coast Echo, "it seemed the whole town was out for the occasion, old and young, big and little, mothers with babes in arms, and toddling grandpas leaning on their sticks."

102. SSC's star basketball team of 1924 made it to the finals in the national playoffs in Chicago where they lost to Marquette University High School by a score of 21 to 7 in a gym packed with more than 10,000 spectators. All schools in Bay St. Louis were given a holiday in order to welcome the SSC team home. When the team arrived back at the Bay, the band led the players in a parade through town ending at the SSC gym which was packed with 1,200 fans who gathered to honor them for winning a large silver cup for their outstanding sportsmanship during the entire tournament. (Sea Coast Echo, April 5, 1924)

103. When Mayor Dever of Chicago awarded SSC the sportsmanship trophy at the end of the national basketball playoffs in 1924, he noted that the team won it not because they were national runners-up. Rather the trophy was awarded as a result of a secret ballot by 24 officials, and SSC won it unanimously over the other 31 teams in the tournament. So moved was the mayor with the sportsmanship of the Rockachaws that he decided St. Stanislaus should keep the trophy permanently rather than having it contested each year as was the custom. The silver cup remains in the SSC showcase. (Sea Coast Echo, April 5, 1924)

104. Br. Edmund O'Hara's junior athletic program at SSC in 1924 involved more than 95% of the underclassmen. The program sponsored five football teams, fifteen basketball teams, twelve baseball teams, and a track team of more than 100 members. So powerful were these teams that they had to play each other most of the time because others schools hesitated to challenge them. (Sea Coast Echo, June 7, 1924)

105. Sunday June 15, 1924, SSC held its 70th annual commencement in the school gym. SSC graduated its largest class ever—21. It was the first school session since 1870 that SSC did not grant college diplomas, but all agreed that it was a good decision to change the curriculum and the year was considered one of the very best ever. Mayor Emile Gex delivered the graduation address. (Sea Coast Echo, June 21, 1924)

106. In the 1920s the baseball season was in August and September, and football began afterwards when the weather was cooler. In 1924 SSC had an enrollment of 300 students in Grades 4 through 12. There were 24 seniors. When Coach Commagere called for varsity football try-outs 81 students responded. He formed four teams and scheduled each team to play two or three games a week. From these teams, Commagere picked his varsity squad. (Sea Coast Echo, Sept. 20, 1924)

107. SSC's first homecoming football game was in 1924. And the day was called Dad's and Grad's day. A special chartered train ran brought 400 men from New Orleans to the Bay for the occasion. Many alumni, along with Bishop Richard Gerow, "motored" to Bay St. Louis. After a barbecue and parade through the town ending at the stadium, the Rockachaws defeated Jefferson College 12-0 before an enormous overflowing crowd. More than 100 fans watched the game from their coupes, sedans, and roadsters parked along the sidelines. Was this a precursor of today's tailgate parties? (Sea Coast Echo, Nov 1, 1924)

108. There were no homecoming queens or courts for decades after Homecoming started at SSC in 1924. Homecoming was truly for the alumni. In 1935 a Harvest Queen was elected to reign over the school's Halloween Ball. The Mothers' Club sponsored the event to raise money by having students sell books of 50 votes at 10 cents each. Every student was given at least one book of tickets to sell. The first homecoming queen at SSC was in 1947. (Rock-A-Chaw, Oct. 26, 1935; 1947)

109. In the 1920s religious organizations were big at SSC. More than 80 SSC students belonged to one of two Altar Boy Societies, one for the school chapel and one for Our Lady of the Gulf Church. There were 181 active members at SSC in the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin. And almost every senior in school belonged to the Society of the Blessed Sacrament.

110. SSC has produced two major league baseball players: Eddy Moore of the 1925 championship Pittsburgh team and Zeke Bonura, a grad of 1927, who played with Chicago, the New York Giants, and the Washington Red Sox. Zeke Bonura was also a track star who won the national title in javelin while only a sophomore at St. Stanislaus. He set a new record of 213 feet, 10 and a half inches in 1925.

111. The present school chapel was built in 1929. When it was dedicated in 1930, it was able to accommodate the entire student body of 305 students. Two dozen of the old oak pews came from the previous chapel. They had been donated in 1914. There is a brass plate at the end of the pews with the donors' names. The remainder of the oak pews were bought in 1930 to match the older ones. These are the same pews that are used in the chapel today.

112. In 1932 SSC students assisted by Br. Edmund O'Hara, published the first issue of a student newspaper entitled The Rock-A-Chaw. It was declared the best high school paper in the state of Mississippi in 1938. The SSC student paper won many national awards for its style, coverage, and originality. The Rock-A-Chaw continued to be published by the students for 31 years until 1964.

113. With so much acclaim coming to SSC in athletics, Br. William Sharkey, president from 1932-38, delighted in the news in 1934 that SSC grad Marshall Ballard of the class of 1929 was named a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University in England. That same year, Br. William had SSC fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. By 1944 SSC students ranked first in the state for their scholastic work in various tests administered by the Mississippi Department of Education.

114. In April of 1935, the SSC band participated in its first parade away from Bay St. Louis. The band members, sporting their bright red mantles, won the hearts of the people in Mobile, Alabama, as they marched and played for 15 blocks through the business district, ending at the Industrial School grounds where Mobile schools participated in a field day. Every year on Field Day, all the Catholic school students from dozens of schools marched through the streets of Mobile.

115. In 1936 Coach Forster Commagere put together his mythical all star SSC football team. At right end was Zeke Bonura, class of '27. Forster said that Zeke not only caught passes on either side of him while running at top speed, but he did so with one hand. More than that, while carrying the ball in his hand like a baseball, he often stiff armed would-be tacklers with the ball! Zeke went on to play professional baseball with Chicago, the New York Giants, and the Washington Redskins. (Rock-A-Chaw, May 1936)

116. At left half-back, Coach Commagere placed one of Zeke's 1927 classmates, Marchie Schwartz. As quarterback at SSC, he called his own plays. He once threw a 62-yard completion to Zeke for a touchdown. As a punter, he averaged more than 50 yards; and he also played tackle on defense. He was the unanimous choice for all-American two years in a row while at Notre Dame in 1930 and 1931. He was later inducted into the Football National Hall of Fame. (Rock-A-Chaw, May 1936)

117. In 1935 Walter Gex Jr., president of the SSC Sidelines Athletic Club, had lights installed at the stadium so that SSC could have night games. Using dynamite charges at the base of each pole, he had 14 light poles sunk so that they stood 50 feet high with two reflectors on each pole. From 1937 to 1942, SSC hosted Sugar Bowl teams such as Santa Clara, Carnegie, Tulsa, Boston College, and Fordham. The football players slept at the Reed Hotel and used the SSC stadium for practice since it was one of the finest fields in the South. (Rock-A-Chaw, Sept 28, 1935)

118. In 1936 the powerful St. Aloysius Crusader football team came from New Orleans to Bay St. Louis to play the Rockachaws. One of the most bizarre plays ever occurred when the Crusaders were on the Rockachaws' three-yard line. Just as the ball was about to be snapped, the stadium lights went out leaving the field in total darkness. Seconds later they came back on to reveal a Stanislaus player running downfield with the ball. The shocked officials, however, called him back, scolded him, and returned the ball to the line of scrimmage. The Crusaders went on to win 13-0, but not without a tough fight After his victory, the winning coach praised the SSC player for being "alert and on top of the ball." (Ron Brocato, The Golden Game, 2002, p 115)

119. Br. Romuald, band director at SSC for 25 years from 1932 to 1957, led his bands to amass 16 plaques for first-place ratings on the state level and hundreds of medals for outstanding individuals. In 1942, SSC drum major George Comeaux won his fourth straight state title. In 2003 Br. Romuald was named to the Mississippi Music Hall of Fame.

120. In 1937 SSC won its first state boxing championship at the third annual state boxing tournament hosted in Bay St. Louis by Bay High School. It was the custom for the state champion from the previous year to host the tournament. Since 1937, SCC hosted the Mississippi State boxing tournament several times. The Mississippi Athletic Association dropped boxing as an interscholastic sport in 1951, but during its brief existence as an interscholastic sport, SSC totally dominated the sport—winning seven state titles, a record not matched in any other sport.

121. Doc Blanchard's most exciting football game for SSC was during his junior year in 1941 in the Rocks' famous 7-6 victory over Jesuit of New Orleans. More than 13,000 spectators who viewed the game at City Park Stadium in New Orleans watched Blanchard rush for 143 yards, score the Rocks' touchdown, drop-kick the extra point after, and punt the ball to the Blue Jay's one yard line. The New Orleans newspaper the next day described Blanchard as a 200-pound 17-year-old Superman. Blanchard led the Rocks that year to an undefeated season, the Gulf Coast Championship, and another Toy Bowl invitation. (Ron Brocato, The Golden Game, 2002, p 151)

122. With a 9-0 record in football in 1941, SSC was invited to the Times Picayune Toy Bowl game to take on McComb, a member of the Mississippi Big Eight League. McComb, a nationally ranked team had rolled over 11 schools, outscoring them by an average of 34 points and holding its last six opponents scoreless. It was highly unusual for the officials of the Toy Bowl, sponsored by a New Orleans newspaper, to invite two Mississippi schools to play in Louisiana, but more than 25,000 fans turned out to watch the game at City Park in New Orleans. McComb won 25-6, but their players praised the Rockachaws saying they were the toughest team they had ever played. It was Doc Blanchard who scored the Rocks' only touchdown on his final carry of the game. (Rock-A-Chaw, Dec. 7, 1941)

123. Doc Blanchard is not the only SSC grad in the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame. Pete Taylor of the class of 1939 was inducted along with him in 1994. In the SSC Resource Center there is a picture on the wall showing these two stars at the ceremony along with two SSC students and Br. Paul Montero, president in 1994.

124. During World War II, SSC had a 15-acre farm which helped feed the students. It also had 15 head of cattle, several hogs, and 1,500 chickens. Among the students in 1943 who helped build a new dairy barn was Ben Kleinpeter, who later owned Kleinpeter Dairies in Baton Rouge. Br. Aurelian Piton, a French missionary, worked on the farm at SSC for an incredible 65 years. "Chief" as he was called inspired students by his strength of character and good example. Aurelian Hall, the student dormitory, was named in his honor.

125. SSC changed its curriculum during World War II in order to offer aviation and seamanship courses. Of the 40 senior football players in 1942, 35 entered the military immediately after graduation. To be prepared, all students were required to take special physical education classes with daily calisthenic drills. From 3:00 to 4:30, all 230 boarders were required to take part in aquatics which included swimming, boating, rowing, and diving. Students volunteered to act as spotters for planes; interscholastic sports were dropped to save on gasoline and tires.

126. In May of 1942, SSC established the first Aircraft Warning Observation Post in Hancock County. Sixty SSC students joined the Airplane Spotters Corps led by Br. Dominic LeBlanc. They put in more than 7,000 man hours in 1942-43 at their spotters' observation post on the school pier. Watching for planes 13 and a half hours daily, they learned to identify aircraft by the WEFT system: wings, engine, fuselage, and tail structures. Local students also joined the Civil Defense Program as messengers to warn townspeople of possible air raids. Many students collected scrap metal as part of a nationwide drive. The SSC band joined with that of Bay High to promote various war efforts with parades through town

127. Jimmy Carter, SSC graduate of 1944, gave such an outstanding valedictory address that by a vote of the U.S. Congress it has been placed in its entirety into the Congressional Record of the United States. In his speech, Carter challenged his SSC classmates to fight against evil for a just peace and the formation of a world capable of maintaining a durable peace. Later as a Jesuit priest, Rev. James Carter excelled as a professor; and then in 1974 he was named president of Loyola University in New Orleans. Throughout the years he has remained close to his high school alma mater, and in 1974 he was inducted into the St. Stanislaus Hall of Fame.

128. On Friday, September 19, 1947, a severe hurricane hit Bay St. Louis. There were 232 resident students on campus. During the night, the SSC band played to keep the younger students calm by drowning out the howling winds. During the storm, the huge bronze statue of the Sacred Heart in front of the school was turned 45 degrees on its pedestal. No students were hurt, but the school was closed 12 days for necessary repairs after the storm. Br. Ephrem who prefected the smallest boys housed in his dorm called Peanut Heaven called the 1947 Hurricane the worst experience of his 29 years of prefecting.

129. In the summer of 1948, St. Stanislaus built a $50,000 pier to replace the one demolished by the Hurricane of 1947. The new skyline pier extended 1,082 feet, starting in the school yard and ascending 14 feet over the beach road and 20 feet above the water out into the Bay. Two roofed pavilions, a bathhouse with hot and cold running water, a double platform at the end for swimming, and several diving boards made the SSC pier one the finest along the entire Gulf Coast. Because of its height, it withstood every storm until Hurricane Camille in 1969.

130. In 1948 the SSC Rocks played Bay High in football for the first time since the World War II. The Rocks overwhelmed the Tigers 45-0. The two schools did not play each other in football again until 1969 when the Rocks won again, by a score of 15-8. The first football game between SSC and Bay High took place in 1916. The Rockachaws won that game 6-0. (Sea Coast Echo, Nov 18, 1916, first Bay High game.)

131. The 1949 SSC soccer team defeated the cadets of Gulf Coast Military Academy 5-0 in their season opener at the College Field. Almost all the SSC players were from south of the border. Luis Rivara was the star with 4 goals. Other outstanding team members included Santiago Rivara, Charlie Garcia, and Fernando Betanzos. (Rock-A-Chaw)

132. The school Resource Center is dedicated to Br. Alexis Klee who served as president at SSC from 1948-1951. Before becoming president, he served at vice-president for six years. He was the first vice-president at SSC to use the title principal. Br. Alexis also served as chairman of the secondary schools department of the National Catholic Education Association. Later he served 18 years as a member of the Brothers' general administration in Rome. (Lives of Brothers)

133. The school dining hall which was built in 1949 was dedicated to Br. Alban Tucker after his death in 1979. Br. Alban had served at St. Stanislaus for 24 years as head of the kitchen, but that was not the record. The record is 45 years, and it was set by Br. Cyran Boulard who died in 1937. He was so dedicated that he rose at 3:00 a.m. to start his daily chores. His meals for sports banquets were praised in the New Orleans papers as outstanding. His meals were so popular with the students that once they carried him on their shoulders in celebration when it was announced that he was reassigned to St. Stanislaus. (Lives of Brothers)

134. In 1949 students at SSC all knew that P.H. meant detention. P.H. was the students' name for Penance Hall, and it was held daily after school for 40 minutes. According to the students' newspaper, The Rock-A-Chaw, of March, 1949, students were assigned to P.H. for "misconduct, low grades, report cards not on time, drinking water, whistling or talking between periods, wearing blue jeans or Levis, as well as white Tee shirts." The article stressed that "no culprit under any circumstances is given a reprieve. All complaints can be made only after the time is served."

135. In February 1950 SSC students voted to replace their weekly Thursday holiday with Saturday to give them the weekends free. Br. Alexis Klee, president, then allowed resident students to go home monthly on weekends. That change, popular among the students, had a powerful impact on participation in athletics and band. While SSC teams held their own in the four major sports, they found district honors harder to achieve, especially against powerful public schools. SSC still produced many star athletes during this period.

136. In May of 1953, for the second time in its history up to that time, the SSC junior-senior prom was held somewhere other than the school gymnasium. The 1953 prom took place in the Roof Garden of the Markham Hotel in Gulfport. The school paper the Rock-A-Chaw of May 28, 1953 reported "The dance turned out to be a big success and what dance wouldn't with an orchestra like Al Hirt's"? (Rock-A-Chaw May 28, 1953)

137. Edward "Ted" Perry, a senior at SSC in 1954-55, was elected Governor at Mississippi Boys' State and then went on to be elected President at Boys' Nation in Washington, DC. He was the first southerner ever to be elected president at Boys' Nation. He was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the American Legion. After his elections, the city of Bay St. Louis went all out to honor him; and he was a guest speaker at several luncheon banquets given at Hotel Reed, which at the time was a first-class hotel. (Rock-A-Chaw, Oct 8, 1954)

138. During the 1950s parades and processions were quite popular at St. Stanislaus. Besides the usual Mardi Gras parades, students took part in the following parades: Veterans' Day, Memorial Day, homecoming, and the Flea-Fly Classic. Students also took part in several processions—the funeral processions of Brothers, a procession to the Brothers' cemetery for a prayer service on All Souls' Day, and a procession to the Back School campus on St. Stanislaus Day. Also, students walked in processions through town on the feasts of Christ the King and Corpus Christi. (White Cap yearbooks)

129. The following is an excerpt from the 1959-1960 SSC student handbook: "Pocket Money: Excessive pocket money is one of the greatest handicaps in the character training of a boy. We recommend the following as maximum amounts: $2.50 or $3.00 weekly for seniors; 25 cents or 50 cents less for juniors and so forth down to fourth graders for whom we recommend 75 cents to $1.00."

140. The fourth grade at St. Stanislaus was dropped at the end of the 1959-60 school session. All St. Stanislaus students in the 5th and 6th grades, including resident students, attended classes at the Back School until it closed in 1967. St. Stanislaus dropped the 5th grade for the 1971-72 school session, retaining Grades 6-12 as it remains today.

141. The 48th annual Flea-Fly Classic, the final one, took place at SSC in 1964. Many SSC football greats got their start in the Flea-Fly Classic, advancing through the ranks to the Tiny Rocks, the Pebbles, the Rockets, the junior varsity, and finally to the varsity. Usually about 100 to 120 young boys were divided into four weight categories of 70, 80, 90, and 100 pounds. Both the Fleas and the Flies had a team in each category, making up at least eight teams. The rivalry became so heated for weeks before the event that the young boys were taught to "bury the hatchet" at the end of the game.

142. Br. Lee Barker, known to many of SSC's present students for his work at Camp and with the Magic Club, served for ten years from 1966 to 1976 as principal at SSC, longer than any other person in that role. During his ten years, enrollment grew to capacity with 300 resident students, and the present school was built following Hurricane Camille. Br. Lee led the school through many crucial changes in society and the Church, such as integration and civil rights issues as well as the changes brought on by Vatican II. He hired the first full-time women teachers at SSC and invited the girls from OLA to attend classes here.

143. The National Honor Society was begun at SSC in 1968. Eighteen SSC students were the charter members of the society which is named the Peter Basso Chapter of the National Honor Society, in memory of Br. Peter Basso who served many years at SSC as coach, athletic director, principal, and president. The four requirements to become a member of the Honor Society are leadership, character, service, and scholarship.

144. On the night of August 17, 1969, Hurricane Camille crashed into St. Stanislaus College, pushing ashore a 32-foot tidal surge that had picked up the pier and its pilings, using them as battering rams to wash away the bottom floor of what is now the Brothers' Residence. Winds in excess of 190 mph and heavy rain damaged the main school buildings beyond repair and the present school building was constructed in 1970-71. Twenty-four SSC football players who were on campus for training stayed in Aurelian Hall the night of the hurricane along with 125 refugees whom the school took in to ride out the storm.

145. Resident seniors were first allowed to drive cars to school for the 1969-70 school year. They were required to hand over the keys on Sunday night to Br. Joseph, their prefect. Most resident students who do not drive to school and who are not picked up by the parents on Friday travel to Baton Rouge or New Orleans on the SSC bus. In the 1950s when students were first allowed to go home on weekends, they chartered Greyhound buses. Before that many went home for holidays on the train. Before the train in 1869, students traveled to Louisiana by boat.

146. Girls from OLA first began attending some classes at St. Stanislaus during the school year 1971-72 when Br. Lee Barker was principal. The girls came mainly for science classes that were not offered at their school. Later they came for language classes. Off and on over the past 30 years, there has been some talk about OLA and St. Stanislaus becoming co-educational, but it has remained only talk and no steps have ever been taken in such a direction.

147. In June of 1972, Bay St. Louis mayor Warren Carver, a 1929 SSC grad, dedicated Commagere Park, 12 acres of SSC property on the corner of Bookter and St. Francis streets that SSC lets the city use for athletic purposes. Coach Forster Commagere put SSC on the athletic map of the South when he started here in 1915.

148. Skateboarding first made the scene on the SSC campus in 1975, replacing unicycles that were popular the year before. Many fads and crazes hit the SSC campus and last only a few years. Such was the case with kites, Frisbees, hacky sacks, rollerblades, and scooters. But skateboarding has been around for almost 30 years. When it first started, students wore black or white sneakers, Keds being the most popular. Nike and Reebok had not even been dreamed of. But skateboarding does not come close to the popularity of handball which was the favorite recreation of choice on the campus for well over a hundred years.

149. In 1977 SSC dedicated the Brother Peter Memorial Gym on Bookter Street. Br. Peter Basso had served as president of St. Stanislaus for 14 years between 1926 and 1948. Before that he had served as athletic director and coach for 14 years with Coach Forster Commagere to build a nationally renowned athletic program. Later as vice-president-principal for six years and then as president for 14 years between 1926 and 1948, Brother Peter built the school's academic reputation and started the summer camp. He gave St. Stanislaus the name School of Character and had a profound impact on thousands of young people with his nationally broadcast radio talks on "boyology."

150. Weightlifting was first introduced at SSC in 1950, but its great popularity came in the 1970s when Br. Bennet Bishop took over the program. Membership in his St. Stanislaus Weightlifting Club averaged about 70 members. The most outstanding lifter at SSC over the years was Joseph "Doc" Rhodes, a 1965 graduate, who went on to win the national championship in 1970. In 1972 the SSC Weightlifting Club hosted the SAAU Mississippi Open Power Lift for the 6th time in the Brother Peter Gym. A highlight of that meet, which was covered by national television, occurred when "Doc" Rhodes who had returned to his alma mater to compete in the event set a world record totaling 1,600 pounds.

151. Golf began at SSC in 1972 under Coach Ron Engel who coached it until 1978. Golf was then dropped from the SSC sports program until ten years later when it was restarted under the direction of Coach Chuck Genin, a SSC grad of 1975. The Rocks took division titles four times from 1993 to 1996 and four more times from 1998 to 2001, placing as state runner-up in 1995 and finishing in the top ten in the state every year since then.

152. In 1973 SSC sponsored a Taxidermy Club under the direction of its biology teacher, Mr. Ron Engel. Most of the members were local students who learned how to stretch the skins of various animals such as bobcats to dry so that they could later be stuffed. Once students learned the techniques, they were able to earn extra money by stuffing animals belonging to hunters in the area.

153. During the 1975-76 school year, there were seven sets of identical twins at SSC, certainly a record in the school's long history. Enrollment that year was 640 students, 300 of them resident students and 340 day students. Up until 1973 resident students had always outnumbered the day students at St. Stanislaus. In 1975 tuition for resident students was about $2,500 and for day students about $500. There were 43 Brothers at St. Stanislaus that year and only 13 lay teachers.

154. In the school lobby hangs a large framed picture of six SSC rings illustrating new ring designs in 1914, 1920, 1928, 1952, 1968, and 1976. The first rings were a cigar band type of gold ring engraved with the school initials and year on the face. Later, rings were decorated with the school name on the front, a Rock-A-Chaw on one side, and the year on the other. Gradually the senior ring became more elaborate, and students had several options. The present school ring is the same basic design as 1976, but seniors can choose rings in yellow or white gold or silver ultrium. Stones may be ruby or garnet, smooth or cut, with a sunburst or encrusted with the school letters on them.

155. The most Brothers ever stationed at St. Stanislaus in one school year was 45. That was during the 1976-77 school year. Since the arrival of the first Brothers of the Sacred Heart in Bay St. Louis, which was called Shieldsboro, in 1854, there have been 529 Brothers of the Sacred Heart who have served at St. Stanislaus. On the walkway at Our Lady of the Gulf, there are memorial bricks with the names of the various Brothers who have served at St. Stanislaus.

156. Br. Canisius Schell, coordinator and founder of "Project Do," commented for the 1978 SSC yearbook that the club's purpose was "to give students an opportunity to put their Christian training into practice." More than 100 students participated in "Project Do" annually during a 20-year period from 1976 to 1996, sacrificing many hours of their time to tutor slow learners and to visit nursing homes and day care centers. "There is no such thing as a 'little' kindness," Br. Canisius told his students. "Find a need and fill it," he taught them, "in order to develop an attitude of love."

157. In 1979 SSC hosted the AAU Senior National Power Lift Championship in the Brother Peter Memorial Gym. The two-day meet attracted lifters from 29 different states. It was televised nationally by NBC, giving SSC great sports coverage. Br. Bennet Bishop, SSC's weight coach, was the founder and first president of the national American Drug Free Powerlifting Association which he developed into an organization with a membership of more than 6,000 lifters.

158. After years of competing in the WYES Varsity Quiz Bowl competition, the 1986-87 Quiz Bowl team under the leadership of faculty moderator Mr. Tom Ackerman brought honors to the school by winning the Gulf Coast Scholars' Bowl Competition in a series of eight matches.

159. Br. Eduardo Baldioceda set up the first computer lab at St. Stanislaus in 1980. Also during the 1980s, the school used a computer data base to identify some 2,600 living alumni, with Louisiana having the highest—more than 1,000. These alumni represented 37 states and several foreign countries. At reunions of these alumni, a favorite topic of conversation is always how much St. Stanislaus had changed since their time. The campus has been completely overhauled with buildings going up and coming down. As would be expected, the faculty itself has changed and expanded.

160. Baseball picked up at SSC in the 1980s under Coach Fred Weems. In 1982 Joe Gex, the last SSC grad to sign with a major college, began a five-year catching career with Ole Miss Rebels. Sean, Mark, and Brian Logan were all outstanding hitters for the Rocks, each batting over .300 for their careers. The record is held Jay Artigues, however, whose single season batting average of .535 set in 1987 still stands. Cedric Smith, one of the most dominating pitchers in the school's history, led the Coast in strike-outs in 1989 and 1990. Bryce Gex set a single season hitting streak record in 1993. During that season he had base hits in 17 consecutive games.

161. Until 1986 all prefects at SSC had been Brothers. One of the first two lay prefects who began in 1986 was Cecil Spotswood, now a priest in the Mobile Diocese. He had come to summer camp at SSC while a youth. In 1987 four more laymen joined the prefecting staff. Among them was Coach Ken Kenney, one of the first laymen to become a head prefect at SSC.

162. In 1987 the Rocks defeated the #9 ranked Bay High Tigers 22-18 in football for the first time since 1980 in one of the Rocks' biggest upsets against Bay High. In 1986 the Tigers had routed SSC 52-0. Shannon Garrett, class of 1990, went on to play football with the Canadian League, winning All-Pro honors in Canada. In 1990 the 8-4 Rocks made their first trip ever to the state playoffs under head coach Ken Lyons. The Rocks started that season with a 18-15 triple over-time win against Pass Christian and ended with a 13-6 loss to South Pike in the state playoffs.

163. In February 1988, Br. John Hotstream, a SSC grad from the class of 1955, started the Key Club at SSC. Its first elected officers were senior Leonard Kergosien, president; juniors Jeff Aycock, vice-president; Michael Casano, treasurer; Albert Bolian and Joe Gex, secretaries. In 1994 Br. John left SSC to work full-time at St. Anne's Mission in the Navajo Nation in Klagetoh, Arizona. Ever since then, SSC students have made trips to the mission during vacation periods to help out wherever needed.

164. Track and field, a consistent winner at SSC, took the division title in 1988, the school's first division title in any sport. SSC has won divisional titles every year from 1988 to 2001 except in 1994 when the Rocks were disqualified from the final event due to a lane violation which cost them the divisional title by one point. In 1990 SSC took the South State title and finished 3rd in the state. SSC track star Vince Moran was named All American in 1995, the year he set the state high jump record of 7 feet.

165. Cross country hit the scene running in 1989 under the direction of SSC Coach Eddie Burgo. In 1991 the Rocks reached the summit with the Class 4A State Championship. Ever since then, the Rocks have placed in the top ten in state, taking Division from 1992 to 1995 and 2nd in State in 1993, 1994, and 2002 under Coach Steve Flannery. All-State runners for SSC include Scott Black, Chris Kehoe, Drew Scafidi, Alejandro Alvarez, Mike Mancuso, Scott Esher, Josh Perello, Matt Tusa, Gilly Chamberlain, Kyle Lewis, Kody Cannon, and Allen Leone.

166. The ever popular Big Brother-Little Brother program at SSC began in 1989 to help 6th and 7th graders make it through the period of adjustment to SSC. When the program began, Br. Lee Barker was director of residency and Mr. Mick Quinlan was guidance counselor in the dorm. When Heath Hansell, a junior at SSC the 2003-2004 school year, was a little brother in the 7th grade back in 1999, he told his big brothers how much he appreciated the time they would spend with him and his classmates. "We will not intrude into your busy social and school lives with constant questions," he told them. "But we do ask that you help us in times of need," he added, echoing the sentiments of his fellow little brothers.

167. Basketball at SSC since 1980 has been nothing short of stellar. Coach Chuck Genin, SSC grad of 1975, coached the Rocks to the state playoffs during the 1989-90 season behind the play of Shannon Garret, Greg Schruff, and Cedric Smith. In 1991 Coach Jay Ladner took over. Under Coach Ladner's mentoring, the Rocks won division titles in 1995, 1996, 2000, and 2002. They have made the state playoffs from 1994 through 1996 and from 1999 through 2002. SSC made the Elite 8 in 1999 and the Final Four in 2002 and 2003. In 2003 Coach Ladner was honored for having won 250 plus games as head basketball coach at SSC.

168. Always popular at SSC among the foreign students, soccer got its official start in 1978 under Coach Ron Engel. In 1982 the sport was dropped for lack of competition within the state. In 1987 after the state sanctioned soccer, Coach Mick Quinlan took the reigns. The Rocks have dominated the soccer scene since 1991, qualifying for the state playoffs every year since and winning eight Division titles between 1992 and 2002. In 1996 and 1997 under Coach Tim Burns, SSC captured the State title. Coach Andy Kivlan took over in 1998 and continued the Rocks' winning tradition, bringing home the State Championship in 4A in 2003.

169. In 1990 St. Stanislaus initiated the ACE program, Academic Competition for Excellence. Held annually, the competition attracts students from more than 50 elementary and middle schools throughout south Mississippi. Open to students in Grade 5-7, the competition consists of 50-minute tests in mathematics, science, English, and social studies. About 700 students usually participate. Since the tests are made and corrected by teachers at St. Stanislaus, SSC students in the 6th and 7th grades do not compete.

170. Sailing started at SSC in 1991, under the direction of alumnus Mr. Rory Rafferty. In 1992 the team placed 5th in the nation at the Mallory Cup competition at West Point. Then in 1996 at Annapolis, the Rocks took 4th in the nation after winning southeastern honors. Today the sailing team is under the direction of Mr. Dan Zwerg.

171. In 1991 Dr. Michael Ryan became the first lay person to serve at SSC as principal. He served in that role for five years until 1996 when Br. Ronald Talbot became principal. In 1998 Br. Ronald Talbot became president and Br. Ronald Hingle took over as principal. In the early days of SSC the director of the Brothers served as president of St. Stanislaus. The principal was called the vice-president.

172. The SSC stadium is named in memory of Br. Philip Lewis who died in Bay St. Louis in 1994. He served at St. Stanislaus for 43 years, 20 of them maintaining the stadium and athletic fields. During his many years at SSC, Br. Philip also served as principal of St. Stanislaus, director of summer camp, athletic director, Sidelines Club moderator, English teacher, and admissions director. (Lives of Brothers)

173. In 1994 SSC became a smoke free campus. Until then upperclassmen with permission were allowed to smoke in designated areas. In the very early days of the school when the harmful effects of smoking were not known, many students smoked on campus since it was allowed. The SSC student newspaper, the Rock-A-Chaw, often featured half-page ads for cigarettes, pipes, and tobacco during the 1930s and 1940s.

174. In 1995 the St. Stanislaus sophomore team placed second in the state in the Stock Market Game sponsored by the Mississippi Economic Council. The faculty moderator was Mr. Mike Gemelli, STAR Teacher for 1995 and math department chairman. His team placed ninth in the four state area of Mississippi, Louisiana, Virginia, and West Virginia.

175. In 1996 football star Corey Charles rushed for 1,352 yards. From 1997 to 2001, Coach Dave Kenson led the Rocks to three winning seasons and a return to the state playoffs in 1998. Tight end Stephen Peterman at 6'5" and 270 lbs. was the Rock's most decorated player: All-District three years and All-State his senior year. As one of the top ten players in the state, he was selected for the Mississippi-Alabama All-Star game, and he signed with LSU in 1999.

176. In 1998 the Brothers moved into their present residence on campus. The building, which had been constructed in 1958, was known as the infirmary. It contained a dispensary for students, a sick ward, classrooms, and bedrooms for the Brothers. When the Brothers moved into the renovated building in 1998, it was the first time since the beginning of SSC that the Brothers had a residence of their own on campus.

177. In the fall of 1998 Br. Noel Lemmon retired as SSC Camp Director after leading the camp for 30 years. In 2003 Br. Noel will mark 45 years at SSC. During those years, he served as teacher, prefect, dean of discipline, assistant principal, director of buildings and grounds, bus driver, and supervisor of transportation. In 1975 he moderated the Skyhawks at SSC, teaching students how to fly airplanes and helping them obtain an FAA pilot's license. In 1996 Br. Noel was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame. He had been named STAR teacher at SSC nine times and once for the entire state. The character cup at camp is named in his honor.

178. In 2002 J E Loiacano SSC grad of 1960 was named to the All American Football Foundation Hall of Fame. Loiacano began playing varsity football at SSC as a freshman. After graduation, he went on to star in football at Mississippi State where he made All-SEC.

179. By popular demand, Br. Raymond Sylve converted the dungeon under the library into a haunted house in July 2002 for the summer campers. Br. Raymond's haunted house on Halloween started as a special project with Dorm A in the 1980s. After weeks of preparation and practice, Br. Raymond and his dorm crew presented a haunted house that truly scared some and definitely fascinated all who took the guided tour. Its popularity grew so much that it has remained a highly anticipated annual event for more than 20 years, entertaining not just resident students but also youngsters of several of the local families.

180. Lay faculty and staff members who have served SSC for 20 years or more as of 2003 include:

Mr. Jerry Spell, coach and P.E. teacher, 20 years;
Mr. Tom Ackerman, language teacher, 20 years;
Mr. Dale Moran, social studies teacher, 20 years.
Mrs. Virginia Gex, librarian, 21 years;
Mr. Alphonse Benoit, maintenance staff, 22 years;
Mrs. Laurin LaFontaine, finance office, 22 years;
Mrs. Joyce Whavers, maintenance staff, 23 years;
Mr. Mike Gemelli, math teacher, 24 years;
Mrs. Susan Hoda, finance office, 26 years;
Mrs. Susan Estrade, assistant principal, 27 years;
Mrs. Aline Beal, dining room worker, 36 years; and
Mr. James Thriffiley, science teacher, 37 years.

Brother Xavier Werneth
March 11, 2003